

But that's what I'm talking about. That's sort of the way of the cycle. It's the cost of doing business in Washington. I mean, the people——

Ms. Soren. Was that a surprise to you, that it was as harsh as it was?

The President. Well, it's just gotten worse and worse. It's been deteriorating over time. Yes, it surprised me that you could be exonerated from one thing after another and it would never be noticed and then just another set of charges just to keep these going. That bothered me.

But you know, the thing I think is important that I'd ask the American people to look at is that all these folks in our administration sustained all these hits, and we kept producing for the American people. We said, we can't control this, we can't do anything about it; all we can do is get up tomorrow and try to do our job. Why did we come here? We came here to help move the country forward and bring the country together, and that's what we're going to do. And our convention showed how productive our administration had been and our country had been in the last 4 years. And I think the fact that we could do it while having people like Senator D'Amato on us day-in and day-out I think is a tribute to the character and the public devotion of the people in this administration. I'm proud of them.

Ms. Soren. That's what I wanted to ask you. If you can just—try to take this in the way that I mean it, but you've suffered incessant character assassination over the past 4 years. Your family has been maligned. You get up, there's another funeral; you've probably only had a couple hours of sleep that night. Between the funeral, a scandal, another country maybe going to war, why do you want 4 more years? I mean, what are you thinking?

The President. Well, first of all, there's been a lot more good than bad.

Ms. Soren. Really?

The President. Oh, yes. It is the most rewarding thing in the world for a citizen of our country, who loves our country and believes in the

promise of its people, to be President. To look back on the last 4 years and to go out here as I did on the train ride or on this bus trip, and you look into the eyes of people and you go through these crowds, and somebody will say, "I've got a home because of one of your programs"; "I've gotten a job since you were here"; "I'm on one of your college loans"; "I'm an AmeriCorps student"—when you see how the country is changing for the better, it's immensely rewarding.

And in this day and time—you know, as I said, we've had periods like this in our politics before. In the early 1800's, Mr. Jefferson faced many of the same things. When you live in a time which is really rough, with no holds barred, and a lot of people seek personal advantage by what I call the politics of destruction, you have to be always, always, always defining yourself and the quality of your life by what is inside. And you can't confuse who you are and the quality of your own life with whatever is going on in the day-to-day headlines. It's destructive. Otherwise, you shrivel and become little.

The President should always be trying to be bigger than he is and lifting the country up. And you just have to keep putting that out of your mind; you just have to let it go. I can't do anything about anything that happened yesterday or even an hour ago; you just have to let that stuff go and keep trying to lift the country up.

Ms. Soren. Well, thank you very much.

The President. Thank you.

NOTE: The interview began at 6:12 p.m. aboard the MTV Choose or Lose bus. In his remarks, the President referred to Gen. Barry R. McCaffrey, USA (Ret.), Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy; actor Christopher Reeve; comedian Bill Cosby; and Jim Guy Tucker, former Arkansas Governor. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Remarks in Cairo, Illinois

August 30, 1996

The President. Thank you.

Audience members. Four more years! Four

more years! Four more years!

The President. Thank you. Ladies and gentle-

men, thank you. I want to thank the mayor and everybody who's worked so hard to make this day happen. I thank those who sang and performed before, especially the Egyptian High School Band—let's give them a hand over there—[applause]—the Jerry Ford Combo. I understand Helen Bishaw made this wonderful long sign, beautiful sign. Thank you very much.

Folks, I love to come to southern Illinois. When I was Governor of my State, I chaired a study of the lower Mississippi Valley, and I used to come to southern Illinois. And I know that Senator Paul Simon's home is not far from here. And you know, he's retiring from the Senate, and I hope you'll elect Dick Durbin to take his place, because we need him desperately there. But Paul Simon has served you and the United States with dignity and honor and distinction. And I want him to come up here and say just 2 minutes of thanks to you and make a few comments because he is retiring after a great career, and you need to express your appreciation to him.

Senator Simon.

[At this point, Senator Paul Simon made brief remarks.]

The President. Thank you, Senator, and to Congressman Costello, Congressman Poshard, all these legislative candidates and university officials and others who are up on the stage with me.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am delighted to be back here. I loved coming in on the bus. And I looked at the beanfields and the river bottoms, and when I came into town, I felt like I was home. And I saw the big welcome on the Laborers Building. It even had a billboard up there. I appreciated that. Then their leader was back here saying, "You know, we're closer to Arkansas than Chicago. These people talk like you do. You don't have an accent here, Mr. President. You don't have an accent here."

We have had a wonderful week. I started off on a train going from West Virginia to Kentucky to Ohio to Michigan to Indiana to the Democratic Convention in Chicago to prove that we're on the right track to the 21st century, but also to see people like you who never see a President. And then we came back to our bus so we could come down here. I learned today that the last Presidents who came to Cairo were Teddy Roosevelt in 1907 and William Howard Taft in 1909. I don't know what the

others were doing, but I'm glad to be back. And it's high time.

My fellow Americans, last night I had a chance to talk at the Democratic Convention about what we were going to do in the next 4 years to build that bridge to the 21st century. And tonight I just want to say again to you, the choice here is about more than a choice between two candidates. It is a choice between the future and the past, a choice between a philosophy that we're all in this together—we have an obligation to help each other make the most of our own lives—and a theory that you're on your own and we hope you do well. It's a choice between people who believe, as Al Gore and I do, that we have a responsibility to help you make this a strong community and help give your children the best lives.

I was asking here—right just when I was standing here—the Congressman said, "Half of the police department in this town was funded by the crime bill." I fought hard for it. They fought against it. We were right.

We have invested a lot of money in this area in job retraining. I think there ought to be more of it. They think there ought to be less of it. That's a clear signal. You cannot expect people to go through the changes we have had in the American economy unless we do more, and more quickly, to give people immediate access, no matter their age, to whatever education and training they need to get a new job and a better job. It is critical to our future. I'm told you have the best Job Corps retraining center in the country right here. That's the kind of thing we need to do for everybody.

And let me just say, you're going to have some races for the legislature here. I want to talk about how all of these races fit together. If we're going to build a bridge to the next century, we have to keep growing this economy until it reaches every Delta town and every inner-city neighborhood in the United States. It's not enough to say there are 10 million more jobs. We want to know there's a job for everybody that lives in the Mississippi Delta who wants to go to work, and a good job.

Last night I said to the American people—I say to you again here tonight—we changed the welfare laws, and we said we're going to have a new bargain with people who are poor and out of work and able-bodied with little children. We will guarantee health care. We will guarantee food. We will guarantee child care.

But now the income has to come from effort. Well, that's fine. Now, I say we have to go out and create the jobs.

And I outlined a plan last night in Chicago to the American people to invest several billion dollars—all of it paid for in my balanced budget plan—in poor rural areas and small towns, in our inner cities to create jobs, to give incentives to invest in those areas. The best untapped market for the United States today is those parts of the United States which haven't gotten investment, which haven't fully recovered, which need more jobs. That's what we need to do. And we have a strategy to do it.

I want everybody walking across that bridge to the 21st century. I don't intend to see the lower Mississippi Valley left behind. I want your children to have the best education, your parents to have the best jobs, and your people to have the best future. That is my commitment to you.

Let me just say a word about education. Al Gore and I, in the next 4 years, are committed to seeing that every classroom in America, in the remotest mountain village, in the poorest city neighborhood, up and down this Delta, every single classroom and library not only has the computers they need with the teachers trained to help use them but is connected to an information superhighway that will give, for the first time in the history of this country, every child, rich or poor, immediate access to the highest quality information available on any subject, to any child, in any school in the United States or in the world. That is worth fighting for.

Remarks in La Center, Kentucky

August 30, 1996

The President. Thank you. Boy, I'm glad to see you here. I never dreamed there would be such a crowd. I thank you. I thank Governor Patton and Senator Ford for being here. I thank Steve Beshear. I hope he will be your next Senator from Kentucky, and I hope you'll elect him and Dennis Null, a candidate for Congress.

Ladies and gentlemen, you can probably tell I'm a little hoarse. I said everything I had to say last night. I've had a wonderful week. I

We are committed to the right kind of tax cuts for working families: a tax cut in the form of a \$500 credit for young children; a tax cut in the form of a \$1,500 credit to make 2 years of education after high school as universal in 4 years as a high school education is today. We ought to make it possible for every family to go to a community college, at least, and have it paid for and not have to worry about it through tax cuts. We ought to give every family with a child in college or a parent in college a deduction for the cost of tuition up to \$10,000 a year. We ought to educate America and do it now.

So I say to you, if you want that kind of future, if you want the feeling you have tonight on this beautiful lawn of this magnificent old library to carry you through, if you want to feel on election day the way the Vice President says and feel that way all through the next 4 years, you have to help me build that bridge to the 21st century. Will you do that?

Audience members. Yes!

The President. Will you help us for 68 days to talk to your friends and neighbors about going into the future instead of going back? Will you do that?

Audience members. Yes!

The President. God bless you. Stay with us and we will make the kind of future you and your children deserve. Thank you. We're delighted to be here.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:26 p.m. at the Stafford Public Library. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor James Wilson of Cairo.

came into Chicago on a train that went through West Virginia and Kentucky and Ohio and Michigan and Indiana. And now we're on this bus to see the people I've been working for for the last 4 years, to tell you America is on the right track to the 21st century. And we're going to build a bridge right there if you'll help us.

We are going to keep this economy growing. We're going to keep the economy growing and